1 2	3	4	5
11. Karnataka	5692	5692	0
12. Kerala	1000	1000	0
13. Madhya Pradesh	18820	18820	0
14. Maharashtra	22917	22917	0
15. North East-1	2020	1401	619
16. North East-ll	7020	2620	4400
17. Orissa	5254	5121	133
18. Punjab	11975	11975	0
19. Rajasthan	8673	8673	0
20. Tamilnadu	13126	13126	0
21. Uttar Pradesh (East)	51262	51262	0
22. Uttar Pradesh (West)	12858	12857	1
23. Uttaranchal	6843	5929	914
24. West Bengal	3473	3473	0
25. Kolkata Telephones	437	437	0
26. Delhi	191	191	0
TOTAL	232021	224843	7178

Benefit to private operators under VPT System

1715. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under village Public Telephone System, private operators were given undue benefit amounting to Rs. 719 crore;

(b) whether the Department spent more than Rs. 90 crore to provide VPTs on behalf of the private operators; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Licences granted for operation of Basic Service in 1997-98 to six private companies stipulated provision of village Public telephones (VPTs) in 97,806 villages as a part of roll out obligation. All of them were not able to fulfill their obligations in the stipulated time frame. Liquidated Damages amounting to Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered from private Basic Service Operators for delay in commencement of service and delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines (DELs). The licence also stipulated that in case of VPT is provided by Department of Telecommunications (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. as successor organization), the said roll out shall be treated as fulfilled. Accordingly, in the absence of commencement of service by the private Basic Service Operators or non availability of the network of Private Basic Service Operator in that area, the Department of Telecommunications had provided VPTs. It may not be correct to draw a conclusion that Department spent more than Rs. 90 crores on behalf of private operators or private operators were given undue benefit amounting to Rs. 719 crores.

Telephone rental in Gautam Budh Nagar

†1716. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for recovery of Rs. 220/- as rental on telephones installed in 123 villages of District Gautam Budh Nagar in spite of announcement made by G.M., Telephones, Noida that such rental should be to the tune of Rs. 110/-;

(b) the reasons for *suo motu* increase and decrease in the rental by G.M., Telephones, Noida from time to time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.